

Message Text

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SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE PAROLE PROGRAM IN THE PHILIPPINES

REF: A IPP-78 STATE 38351, (B) STATE 50283 (C) GENEVA 3165

1. WHILE SUCH COUNTRIES AS BELGIUM, CANADA, GERMANY, FRANCE AND SWITZERLAND HAVE ACCEPTED A TOKEN NUMBER OF BOAT CASE REFUGEES FROM THE PHILIPPINES, (A TOTAL OF 101 SINCE AUGUST 1, 1977), ACCORDING TO UNHCR REP, THE U.S. AND CANADA ARE THE ONLY TWO COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE AN ACTIVE REFUGEE PROGRAM HERE. OF THE 101 THIRD COUNTRY ACCEPTANCES TO DATE, CANADA HAS TAKEN 50. UNHCR REP SAID ON MARCH 3 THAT HE HAS MADE EXERTED EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE MORE PARTICIPATION BY THIRD COUNTRIES IN THE REFUGEE PROGRAM BUT HAS HAD LITTLE OR NO SUCCESS. FOR EXAMPLE AUSTRALIA HAS AN ACTIVE PROGRAM IN MALAYSIA AND THAILAND, AND YET, THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAVE ACCEPTED ONLY 12 CASES FROM THE PHILIPPINES SINCE AUGUST 11, 1977. UNHCR REP WAS REMINDED OF FRANCE'S OFFER TO ACCEPT ANY BOAT CASE REFUGEE WHO EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO GO TO FRANCE. HE REPLIED THAT FRENCH CHARGE, WHILE SYMPATHETIC, SAID HE COULD DO NOTHING IN THE PHILIPPINES (SEE REF C).

2. ON JANUARY 12 UNHCR REP SUBMITTED NAMES OF 16 BOAT CASE

REFUGEES TO THE GERMAN EMBASSY FOR CONSIDERATION. AS OF MARCH 2 THE GERMANS HAD NOT GIVEN DECISION WHETHER TO ACCEPT THESE CASES. TO EXPEDITE A REPLY UNHCR REP SENT FOLLOW-UP TO UNHCR HEADQUARTERS GENEVA AND UNHCR REP BONN. HOWEVER, HE DOES NOT EXPECT THESE CASES TO BE APPROVED AND WOULD, THEREFORE, LIKE TO HAVE THEM CONSIDERED BY THE USG TO INSURE THEIR DEPARTURE FOR THE U.S. SHOULD THE FRG NOT ACCEPT THEM. SO FAR, WEST GERMANY HAS ACCEPTED 22 REFUGEES FROM THE PHILIPPINES.

3. UNHCR REP SAID SWITZERLAND WILL CONSIDER ACCEPTING HANDICAPPED REFUGEES FROM THE PHILIPPINES AND HE IS ALSO URGING THE SWISS TO ACCEPT MINOR CHILDREN WITHOUT FAMILIES. SWITZERLAND HAS ACCEPTED TWO REFUGEES AS OF THIS DATE.

4. DENMARK HAS NO ACTIVE REFUGEE PROGRAM HERE AND NORWAY WILL ACCEPT ONLY BOAT CASES PICKED UP AT SEA BY NORWEGIAN SHIPS. ACCORDING TO UNHCR REP, THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT'S ACCEPTANCE OF REFUGEES FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD PRECLUDES THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE INDOCHINESE PROGRAM.

5. IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS UNHCR HAS SUBMITTED 205 NAMES OF BOAT CASE REFUGEES TO US FOR CONSIDERATION UNDER IPP-78. ALL BUT A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THESE REFUGEES WERE EARLIER REFUSED BY THE CANADIANS WHO ARE ACCEPTING UP TO 10 FAMILIES A MONTH FROM THE PHILIPPINES. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY THE CANADIANS THAT UNLESS THE REFUGEES MEET THEIR STRICT CRITERIA, THEY WILL BE REFUSED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IMMEDIATELY. UNHCR REP ASSURED US THESE CASES WERE SUBMITTED TO THE CANADIANS AT THE REQUEST OF THE REFUGEES AND NOT BY UNHCR. HE FURTHER STATED THAT IF THESE CASES WERE REFERRED TO TOEHR COUNTRIES THEY WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED, AND BASED ON PAST RECORD HERE, WE INCLINED TO AGREE. CANADIANS SAID THAT SOME OF THE REFUGEES DELIBERATELY WITHHELD OR GAVE INCORRECT INFO ON THEIR APPLICATIONS TO INSURE THEIR REFUSAL BY CANADA AND THEREBY QUALIFY UNDER THE U.S. PROGRAM. IN VIEW OF THIS, CAN WE CONSIDER THESE CASES ELIGIBLE BASED ON THEIR REFUSAL BY THE CANADIANS? FURTHER, WHAT DOES THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDER TO BE A REASONABLE LENGTH OF TIME FOR BOAT CASE REFUGEES TO BE CONSIDERED BY THEIR COUNTRIES BEFORE THEY CAN BE CONSIDERED UNDER IPP-78? UNHCR REP CONCERNED SOME CASES WHO COULD HAVE QUALIFIED WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED IN TIME FOR IPP-78 SINCE IT TAKES AN AVERAGE OF THREE MONTHS (MANILA 2023), FOR THIRD COUNTRIES IN THE PHILIPPINES TO CONSIDER BOAT CASES.

6. WE HAVE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED AN INTERVIEW ON MARCH 11 FOR THE FIRST GROUP OF 205 BOAT CASE REFUGEES TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER IPP-78, WHO WERE REFUSED BY A THIRD COUNTRY. IN VIEW OF ABOVE WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS AS TO THEIR ELIGIBILITY. POST WOULD APPRECIATE REPLY BY IMMEDIATE TELEGRAM.

NEWSOM

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